

**Remarks**

Claims 16-31 are pending in the application, and have been allowed. Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

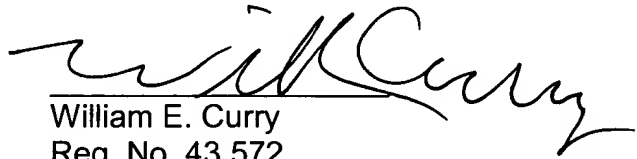
Accordingly, because the present application contains only allowed claims, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 1, 2004

By:

  
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